

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please remove part B on page 8 of the specification:

~~B. Big Blind: The player seated to the left of the small blind. The big blind is second to receive a card and, in the first round of wagering in a given hand, is required to wager a pre-determined amount, typically the minimum bet.~~

Please remove part C on page 9 of the specification:

~~C. California Hold ‘Em: “California Hold ‘Em” refers to the game of “No Limit Texas Hold ‘Em” as modified by the application of the Invention.~~

Please replace part D on page 9 of the specification with the following:

[[D.]] B. Card or Cards: “card” or “cards” refer to conventional playing cards, i.e. a single deck of fifty two cards comprised of four suits (spades, hearts, clubs and diamonds) of thirteen cards each, with each suit including (in descending rank) one ace, one king, one queen, one jack, one ten, one nine, one eight, one seven, one six, one five, one four, one three and one two.

Please remove parts E and F on page 9 of the specification:

~~E. Check: “check” refers to an election made by a player in a hand to postpone his wagering decision until another player in the hand has wagered first, after which time the player who has checked must, when it is his turn to wager, match the wager, raise the wager or fold.~~

~~F. Chips: “chips” refers to the markers that are used for wagering purposes in tournament games.~~

Please replace parts G, H, I, and J on page 9 of the specification with the following:

[[G.]] C. Community Cards: “community cards” refers to the cards that are dealt face-up and that may be used by all player players then active in any given hand.

[[H.]] D. Down Cards: “down cards” refers to the cards dealt face-down to each player.

[[I.]] E. Fold: “fold” refers to a declaration by a player in a hand that he has decided to withdraw from the hand and forfeit the amount he has wagered prior to his declaration.

[[J.]] F. Hand: “hand” refers to a round of poker in which, in the case of both Texas Hold ‘Em and California Hold ‘Em, each player is dealt two down cards and has the use of up to five community cards.

Please remove part K on page 9 of the specification:

K. Insurance Premium: “insurance premium” refers to an amount required by the game sponsor to be paid by any player electing to fold with insurance. The insurance premium may be either (i) a fixed amount or (ii) the product of (I) a fixed amount (i.e., the amount required of either the big blind or the small blind) and (II) a numeric value (i.e., one, two, three, etc.).

Please replace part L on page 10 of the specification with the following:

[[L.]] G. Poker: “poker” refers to a classification of card game in which a number of players compete against each other in hands to win the pot, a prize which consists of the net amount wagered by all players in any given hand. The winner in each hand is determined based upon a fixed ranking of hands, and may be determined by the highest hand, the lowest hand or split between the highest and lowest hand.

Please remove parts M-P on page 10 of the specification:

M. Pot: “pot” refers to the total net amount of wagers (i.e., the total amount of wagers less any fee or commission assessed by the sponsor of a game) that may be won in any given hand. In games of California Hold ‘Em, “pot” will include any insurance premium paid by players who elect to fold with insurance.

N. Recovery Percentage: “recovery percentage” refers to the amount of a player’s all-in wager that may be recovered following that player’s election to fold with insurance. The recovery percentage may be any amount permitted by the rules of the game sponsor, however it is believed that, in the preferred embodiment of California Hold ‘Em, the recovery percentage will be either 40% or 20%, depending upon when the election is made.

~~O. Ring Games:~~ “ring games” are games of No Limit Hold ‘Em in which players compete with money, rather than tournament chips. Ring games generally have no prize other than the money wagered in a given hand.

~~P. Small Blind:~~ The player seated to the left of the dealer. The small blind is first to receive a card and, in the first round of wagering, is required to wager a pre-determined amount, typically half the minimum bet.

Please replace part Q on page 10 of the specification with the following:

[[Q.]] H. Texas Hold ‘Em: “Texas Hold ‘Em” refers to a poker game in which each player is dealt two down cards and, sequentially with rounds of wagering occurring after each event (including after the first two down cards are dealt, after the first three community cards are dealt, after the fourth community card is dealt, and after the fifth community card is dealt), three, then one, then a final community cards are dealt, with the winner based on the highest possible poker hand. Texas Hold ‘Em games that incorporate the all-in variant of wagering are referred to as “No Limit Texas Hold ‘Em” or just “No Limit Hold ‘Em.”

Please remove parts R on page 10 and 11 of the specification:

[[R.]] I. Tournament Games: “tournament games” are games of No Limit Hold ‘Em in which players purchase a seat for a specific purchase price and, in exchange, receive a set number of chips with which they may play. The game is won by the player who wins all the chips in the tournament game.

Please replace the footnote on page 12 of the specification:

² The exception to this rule is the first round of wagering, in which ~~the big blind and the small blind some players~~ are required to wager a pre-determined amount.

Please replace the title prior to the second to last paragraph on page 14 of the specification with the following:

2. Explanation of the Invention with Reference to the Drawing[[s]]

Please replace the second to last paragraph on page 14 of the specification with the following:

The following [[three]] section[[s]] should be read with reference to, respectively, Figure No. 1; ~~Figure No. 2 and Figure No. 3~~. For convenience, each of the referenced drawing[[s]] has been created with a “dealer” and six position players, denoted Players A through F. The dealer is not a player in either manual (i.e., games dealt in a casino or gaming room) or electronic (either console or on-line) games of No Limit Hold ‘Em.

Please remove page 14, last paragraph and page 15, lines 1-10 of the specification:

~~Similarly, and again for convenience, the drawings have been explained as if Player A (the player seated to the immediate left of the dealer) is the small blind and Player B (the player seated to the immediate left of the small blind) is the big blind. In practice, the position of dealer (known in gaming parlance as the “button”) and, correspondingly, the positions of small blind and big blind, rotate clockwise (i.e., moving to the left) progressively with each hand as the game progresses. This is because both the small and the big blinds are at a disadvantage (because they are required to wager before they see their cards, whereas each other player has a chance to see his cards before they decide to check, wager or fold), and rotating the position among all players minimizes the disadvantage over the course of the game. Accordingly, rather than attempt to introduce the complexities of position rotation, and because position rotation is not integral to an explanation or understanding of the invention, the drawings and explanation assume fixed positioning for descriptive purposes only.~~

Please replace last paragraph on page 15 of the specification:

Step No. 4: Because the all-in election has been made, no more rounds of wagering can take place; however, since the insurance option is a wagering decision, the following results, as outlined in Figure No. 1, take place: Player E does nothing; Player F does nothing; Player A does nothing; and Player B folds with the insurance option.

Please replace the first sentence on page 16 of the specification:

By folding with the insurance at the first opportunity (i.e., after the three community cards have been dealt), Player B will receive the recovery percentage ~~less the insurance premium⁴~~.

Please replace the second, third, and fourth paragraph on page 16 of the specification:

Step No. 6: Again, because the all-in election has been made, no more rounds of wagering can take place; however, since the insurance option is a wagering decision, the following results, as outlined in Figure No. 1, take place: Player E does nothing; Player F does nothing; and Player A folds with the insurance option.

By folding with the insurance option at the second, and last, opportunity (i.e., after the first three and the fourth community cards have been dealt), Player A will receive the recovery percentage ~~less the insurance premium~~⁵.

Step No. 7: The fifth and final community card is dealt, face up, Player E and Player F use their previously revealed down cards and five community cards and the winner is declared based on the highest possible poker hand. The winner receives the pot, which consists of all wagers in the hand (less any fee or commission assessed by the sponsor of the game) ~~plus the insurance fees paid by Player A and Player B, each of whom elected to fold with the insurance option~~.

Please remove from page 16, section B through page 19 of the specification:

B. Figure No. 2

~~In Figure No. 2, a hand of California Hold ‘Em is described in which an all-in decision is made after (i) the two down cards have been dealt to each player, (ii) a round of wagering has occurred in which no player elected to move all-in and (iii) the first three community cards have been dealt, face up. There are six players (Players A through F) and the hand proceeds according to the following steps.~~

~~Step No. 1: The two down cards are dealt to each player. Each player is permitted to look at his two down cards, but not the down cards of any other player.~~

~~Step No. 2: A first round of wagering takes place, with the following results: Player A (the small blind) wagers; Player B (the big blind) wagers; Player C folds; Player D folds; Player E wagers; Player F raises; Player A calls; Player B calls; and Player E calls. At~~

~~this point in the hand, two players have folded and four players have wagered; because no player has moved all in, no player may reveal their down cards.~~

Step No. 3: The three community cards are dealt, face up.

Step No. 4: Because the all in election has not been made, a round of wagering takes place with the following results, as outlined in Figure No. 2: Player F wagers; Player A folds; Player B moves all in; Player E moves all in; and Player F moves all in. At this point, Player B, Player E and Player F reveal their down cards.

~~Because the all in election had not been made by anyone prior to the first three community cards having been dealt, the election to fold with insurance is not available for this round of wagering (only a previously all in player may elect the insurance option).~~

Step No. 5: The fourth community card is dealt, face up.

Step No. 6: Now, because the all in election has been made, no more rounds of wagering can take place; however, since the insurance option is a wagering decision, the following results, as outlined in Figure No. 2, take place: Player B does nothing; Player E does nothing; and Player F folds with insurance.

~~By folding with insurance at the second, and last, opportunity (i.e., after the first three and the fourth community cards have been dealt), Player F will receive the recovery percentage less the insurance premium[†].~~

Step No. 7: The fifth and final community card is dealt, face up, Player B and Player E use their previously revealed down cards and five community cards and the winner is declared based on the highest possible poker hand. The winner receives the pot, which consists of all wagers in the hand (less any fee or commission assessed by the sponsor of the game) plus the insurance fee paid by Player F who elected to fold with insurance.

[†] Note that, in this case, the amount Player F wagered is again the amount actually at risk, i.e., the higher of the amounts actually placed at risk by Player E or Player B.

C. Figure No. 3

In Figure No. 3, a hand of California Hold ‘Em is described in which an all-in decision is made after the two down cards have been dealt to each player and the first three and the fourth community cards have been dealt. There are six players (Players A through F) and the hand proceeds according to the following steps.

Step No. 1: The two down cards are dealt to each player. Each player is permitted to look at his two down cards, but not the down cards of any other player.

Step No. 2: A first round of wagering takes place, with the following results: Player A (the small blind) wagers; Player B (the big blind) wagers; Player C folds; Player D folds; Player E wagers; Player F raises; Player A calls; and Player B calls. At this point in the hand, two players have folded and four players have wagered.

Note that the insurance option is not available because the next round of dealing involves the three community cards. A player must decide to match or withdraw without the benefit of the insurance provided by the invention.

Step No. 3: The three community cards are dealt, face up.

Step No. 4: Because the all-in election has not been made, a round of wagering takes place with the following results, as outlined in Figure No. 3: Player F wagers, Player A raises; Player B calls; Player E folds; and Player F calls.

Step No. 5: The fourth community card is dealt, face up.

Step No. 6: Again, because the all-in election has not been made, a further round of wagering takes place with the following results, as outlined in Figure No. 3: Player F checks; Player A moves all-in; Player B folds; and Player F moves all-in.

Because the all-in election had not been made by anyone prior to the first four community cards having been dealt, no player has the election to fold with insurance

~~(only an all-in player may elect the insurance option). Accordingly, Player B is unable to insure his loss.~~

~~Step No. 7: The fifth and final community card is dealt, face up, Player A and Player F reveal their down cards and using the five community cards the winner is declared based on the highest possible poker hand. The winner receives the pot, which consists of all wagers in the hand (less any fee or commission assessed by the sponsor of the game).~~

3. Preferred Embodiment

~~Although the invention may be used in a manually dealt version of No Limit Hold Em, because the application of the invention will change, dynamically, the odds of winning a hand whenever it is invoked, and because the application of the invention will introduce significant hand-specific record keeping obligations, the invention is most suitable for electronic gaming, either through console (i.e., stand alone or home based games) and on-line gaming.~~

~~At an appropriate point in the game, as specified above, a player may invoke the invention by declaring "fold with insurance"; this declaration (which may be oral, in the case of a manually dealt hand, or the giving of an electronic command, either by mouse or keystroke, in the case of an on-line game or push button, in the case of a console electronic game) results in the declaring player (i) withdrawing from the hand and (ii) recovering from the pot the difference between (I) the recovery percentage of the player's all-in wager, and (II) the insurance premium.~~